



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS CRUCES FIELD OFFICE ■ 1800 MARQUESS ■ LAS CRUCES NM 88005

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BLM to Conduct Prescribed Burn on Diamond A Ranch

Burn will bring fire back to ecosystem, improve grassland habitat and provide nesting habitat for a rarely seen bird

Smoke may be visible in the vicinity of Animas, NM, on May 18-20 as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) begins a prescribed burn that will reintroduce fire to a grassland ecosystem on the Diamond A Ranch.

The 625-acre sacaton draw scheduled for the prescribed burn is at the north end of the Animas Mountains (south of Animas) on state and BLM lands, and on private lands of the ranch.

“This area’s natural fire return interval [the amount of time between nature-caused fires] is every five to ten years,” said BLM Fuels Management Specialist Ryan Whiteaker. “And this area hasn’t burned in a very long time. This burn will get rid of the fuel buildup and stimulate new growth.”

This week’s effort is a precursor to a more extensive burn scheduled for mid-June. The 625 acres will provide nesting habitat for the Botteri’s sparrow, which makes its nests in Alkali sacaton grass, when BLM conducts the larger burn. The new growth will also create a natural mosaic of growth and provide habitat for rodents and other wildlife.

A crew of ten people and two engines will be burning the draw. The BLM will notify local State and federal fire agencies and the Sheriffs Office on all days that burning is conducted. Please feel free to contact the BLM with any questions or concerns about smoke in the area.

